

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-16 and 18-21 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claim 17 is canceled. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 1 and 3-21 are allowable.

The Office Action rejects claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,266,486 to Fraatz et al. (hereinafter "Fraatz"). Claim 17 has been canceled and thus this rejection is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

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Reply to Office Action of June 29, 2005

Docket No. UMBC-0004A

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **René A. Vázquez, Esq.**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



René A. Vázquez, Esq.
Registration No. 38,647

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3701 RAV:knv
Date: NOVEMBER 29, 2005

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610